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BUREAU OF CONSCRIPTION,
Richmond, June 26, 1863.

To Commandants of Conscripts and Camps of Instruction:

SIR:

As representing the Government, you have a right to exercise discretion in accepting or rejecting substitutes.

Accept none, unless satisfied that the transaction is in good faith, the substitute reliable, and of good character, and that the interests of the Government will not suffer by the inferiority (in physical capacity or in character) of the substitute to the principal, or by the withdrawal of men interested in the country from the military service.

You may require the principal to be present in person, and will refuse to deal with brokers or paid agents. Undomiciled foreigners are forbidden to be received as substitutes; nor can a declaration of intention to become naturalized, qualify a foreigner to be a substitute. Such a declaration would make him, if of conscript age, liable to service in his own person. All doubtful cases reject, or refer to this Bureau.

These instructions are issued by direction of the War Department.

I am, sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

G. W. LAY, *Lt. Col., A. A. G.*
Acting Chief of Bureau.

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